

United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service

Press Release



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Idaho Potato Stocks Down 22 percent from Last Year

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers, and processors in Idaho on May 1 totaled 30.0 million cwt, 8.5 million cwt less than on hand May 1, 2010. This is the lowest May 1 stocks level since 1991. Disappearance, at 84.4 million cwt is down from last year's 94.0 million cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest counties totaled 1.30 million cwt, down from last year's 1.70 million cwt. The Other counties' stocks, at 28.7 million cwt, were down from the 36.8 million cwt stored on May 1, 2010. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used 6.61 million cwt of 2010 crop raw potatoes during April, down 4.2 percent from April 2010. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon have used 52.8 million cwt of 2010 crop raw potatoes to May 1, down 5.9 percent from last year. Idaho potatoes accounted for 45.9 million cwt of the total processed. The remaining 6.90 million cwt were produced in other states.

Nationally, the 13 major potato States held 65.7 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2011, down 27 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 19 percent of the 2010 fall storage States' production, four percentage points below May 1, 2010. Potato disappearance, at 286 million cwt, was 3 percent below May 1, 2010. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 22.1 million cwt, was down 17 percent from the same date in 2010. Processors in the 9 major States have used 144 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 1 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 22.7 million cwt of the total processing, down 15 percent from last year.